

LOUISIANA PLANT MATERIALS LONG RANGE PLAN

2003-2008

State Plant Materials Long Range Plan - 2003-2008

I. Introduction

Introduction

The mission of the Plant Materials Program is to develop and transfer effective plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs. The purpose of the Plant Materials Program is to: 1) assemble, test, and release plant materials for conservation use, 2) determine techniques for successful use and management of conservation species, 3) facilitate the commercial increase of conservation species, 4) provide for the timely development and transfer of effective state-of-the-art applied science technology to solve conservation problems, and 5) promote the use of plant science technology to meet the goals and objectives of the NRCS Strategic Plan.

The state Plant Materials Long Range Plan (LRP) identifies and prioritizes customer, resource, and program needs. The LRP presents proposed action items to address identified needs.

Long Range Plan Development

The LRP was developed in accordance with the revised National Plant Materials Manual, Part 540.01. This plan is intended to be used as a guide for directing plant materials activities within the state. This plan will be used along with the respective plans of the other states within the service area to develop the Plant Materials Center LRP. This plan may also serve as a reference to develop specific action items which will be incorporated into the state's annual Business Plan.

The listing of identified customer, resource, and program needs were developed by the State Plant Materials Committee. The Plant Materials Committee is comprised of both NRCS employees and non-NRCS partners who have an interest in plant materials work. Along with the input provided by the committee members, additional references were used to help identify and prioritize problems and needs. Needs were categorized by the NRCS Goals and Objectives as listed in the revised National Plant Materials Manual.

NRCS Objectives, Needs, and Recommended Actions

A summary of problems, needs, and recommended actions are provided in Table 1. Resource concerns are listed in order of importance as ranked by the Plant Materials Technical Committee.

Resource Concern	Plant Materials Needs	Priority Ranking	Evaluate Existing Technology	Transfer Existing Technology	Develop New Technology
-------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------

NRCS Objective: Healthy and Productive Cropland

Alternative methods (cost efficient) for vegetative buffers, grassed water ways, and riparian areas	Demonstration plantings, fact sheets, and local ecotype seed sources.	1		X	X
Evaluate reseeding cover crops with residue	Test new varieties of cover crops	2			X
Reducing concentrated flow on cropland	Demonstrate practice standard 601	3	X		
Buffers for sweet potato conservation systems	Demonstrate new buffer technology	4	X	X	X
Evaluate biofuel crops for Louisiana	Large scale farm demonstrations	5	X	X	
Plant science information in support of Master Farmer Program	Summarize and transfer existing technology information	6		X	X

NRCS Objective: Healthy Watersheds

Develop a Louisiana native grass and forb assembly for regionally adapted plants	Identify priority species and begin assembly, increase and release	1			X
Riparian zone rooting depth /		2			X
Plant Materials for urban areas	Develop awareness and public education packets	3	X	X	X
Develop technology for clonal releases	Develop planting protocols for multiple container sizes	4	X	X	

Resource Concern	Plant Materials Needs	Priority Ranking	Action Planned		
			Evaluate Existing Technology	Transfer Existing Technology	Develop New Technology
<u>NRCS Objective: High Quality Habitat for Wildlife</u>					
Develop locally adapted grass and forbs for wildlife use / prairie restoration etc.	Identify priority species and begin assembly, increase and release	1			X
Habitat specific native plant community demonstration plantings	Field evaluation plantings using native grasses, forbs and legumes.	2		X	
Grassland bird habitat manipulation	Response of natives to mowing, burning, and spraying	3		X	X
Adaptive, low maintenance plants for wildlife use in right of ways	Demonstrate specie mixtures for woody competition and control	4		X	X
Prairie restoration techniques	Technology transfer	5		X	X
<u>Coastal Issues</u>					
Neotropical bird habitat	Evaluate woody plant species	1			X
<u>NRCS Objective: Plant Materials Program Marketing</u>					
Plant Materials notebook for field office references		1	X	X	X
Job sheets, fact sheets for ecosystem restoration		2		X	
Publications on production and propagation of plant materials		3		X	
Develop infrastructure for native seed industry		4	X	X	X
Plant Materials information for urban areas		5			X

Resource Concern	Plant Materials Needs	Priority Ranking	Action Planned		
			Evaluate Existing Technology	Transfer Existing Technology	Develop New Technology

NRCS Objective: Healthy and Productive Grazing Lands

Guidelines for native plant establishment	Demonstration plantings, technical notes on existing technology	1	X	X	
Confined animal operations and disposal of manure and waste	Response of native grasses and legumes to poultry litter application.	2		X	X
Vegetative buffers and barriers for grazing operations	Demonstrate native grasses for both grazing and wildlife habitat	3		X	

NRCS Objective: Healthy and Productive Wetlands

Ecosystem restoration	Increasing diversity	1	X	X	
Shoreline erosion control using vegetation on interior water bodies	Identify and select locally adapted wetland species for use in wetland restoration, enhancement or creation of wetlands on interior fresh water.	2	X	X	
Riparian buffer development of upland plant species for freshwater systems.	Evaluate multiple species	3	X		X
Herbaceous vegetative plantings on levees created for WRP.	Evaluate low growing material	4			X
Establishment techniques for <i>Arundinaria gigantea</i> (switchcane)	Evaluate alternative methods	5			X

Resource Concern	Plant Materials Needs	Action Planned		
		Evaluate	Transfer	
		Existing Technology	Existing Technology	Develop New Technology

NRCS Objective: Health and Productive Wetlands (Coastal Issues)

Availability of submerged aquatic vegetation for restoration and enhancement	Identify key species and develop propagation and establishment techniques			X
Coastal shoreline degradation				
Lack of adapted native plants for barrier island back bay salt marsh.	Select and release adapted species for diverse habitats			X
Lack of commercially available annual species for beach stabilization and dune enhancement				X
Lack of diversity and structure on newly formed dedicated sediment sites.			X	X
Variation in quality of containerized plant materials used for restoration.	Provide training to wetland plant growers, planners, and installers on potting media, container type and propagation method.		X	X
Lack of diversity in upper salt marsh habitat restoration	Identify and evaluate locally adapted plant materials and establishment techniques.			X